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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE
WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 25 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward to you herewith a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on 24 March 1999 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 10, "Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volodymyr YEL'CHENKO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Ukraine to the United Nations

Annex

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine of 24 March 1999

It is with deep inquietude and concern that Ukraine has perceived the news about NATO air strikes against the targets on the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Adhering to the norms and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, Ukraine considers as inadmissible the use of military force against a sovereign State without authorization of the United Nations Security Council - the only body entrusted to take such decisions in order to maintain international peace and security.

At the same time, Belgrade's refusal to sign the agreements elaborated through the mediation of the Contact Group resulted in the breakdown of the negotiating process. Therefore, the provisions of Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998) and 1199 (1998) have not been fully implemented and that led to the use of force.

Ukraine urges the parties to the conflict, as well as the international community, to urgently exert additional efforts in order to stop the further escalation of the conflict. It is necessary to return as soon as possible to a peaceful political settlement on the basis of the preservation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the granting of a wide autonomy to Kosovo.

Ukraine reaffirms its readiness to contribute to the efforts aimed at restoring peace and ensuring stability and respect for human rights, including the rights of national minorities on the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.